1 - Mr. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. K. M. Raupach
1 - Mr. R. K. Leuthan

The Attorney General

November 20, 1967

Director, FBI 100-35 1938

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

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News media dated November 15, 1967, reported that Harold Weisberg is writing a series of seven books attacking the Warren Commission Report. Weisberg's latest book reportedly is entitled "Oswald in New Orleans: Case for Conspiracy With the CIA."

For your information, Harold Weisberg has received considerable publicity in the past in connection with his book "Whitewash-The Report of the Warren Report." This book is a vitriolic and diabolical criticism of the Warren Commission, the FBI, the Secret Service, several other United States Government agencies and the Dallas, Texas, Police Department. It contains inaccuracies, falsehoods and deliberate slanting of facts to fit Weisberg's purpose.

A check of our files disclosed Weisberg was one of ten employees fired summarily by the State Department during 1947 because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. Weisberg was allowed to resign without prejudice but was not restored to his former position.

[redacted]

Our files also reveal that the State Department prepared a report concerning Weisberg dated April 28, 1947, which showed that Weisberg was an employee of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee from September, 1936, to October, 1939.

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SEE NOTE PAGE FOUR

Classified by 4417
Exempt from GDS, Category 2 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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The Attorney General — CONFIDENTIAL

and was discharged for permitting certain information to leak to the press. The State Department report sets forth that Senator La Follette stated that Weisberg had been dismissed for a breach of trust involving the release of confidential information to the press, and that Senator La Follette was quite certain the newspaper involved was the "Daily Worker," the east coast communist daily newspaper.

According to news media dated November 15, 1967, Weisberg, in his current book "Oswald in New Orleans: Case for Conspiracy With the CIA," makes a number of allegations concerning the FBI. A concise summary of such allegations along with the true facts of the matter is set forth below for your information.

Weisberg claims that Anna Meller, a friend of Marina Oswald, visited the Oswald apartment in Dallas prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and noted writings of Karl Marx in the apartment. Weisberg claims Meller's husband phoned the FBI at such time and was told that Oswald was all right. Weisberg's allegations are completely false. Anna Meller was a White Russian friend of Marina Oswald and testified before the Warren Commission. In her testimony she stated she noted a book by Karl Marx in Oswald's apartment. She did not claim this information was called to the attention of the FBI by her husband. We interviewed both Anna Meller and her husband, Teofil Meller, following the assassination of President Kennedy and neither made any reference to any previous contact with the FBI. A check of our files disclosed no information that there was such a contact.

Weisberg claims that the FBI withheld data from the Warren Commission indicating Guy Banister, a former FBI agent, was active in anti-Castro Cuban matters and shared a building where a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) anti-Castro Cuban group was located. Weisberg alleged Oswald had connection with this anti-Castro Cuban group. He also alleged the FBI misrepresented Banister's address to the Warren Commission and that the FBI neglected to inform the Warren Commission of Banister's background.

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The Attorney General

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During our investigation of the assassination, we developed no information indicating Lee Harvey Oswald had any connection with Guy Banister or with any anti-Castro Cuban group located in the building where Banister's office was located. We determined that an anti-Castro Cuban group had been in this building in 1961-62 but had left this building sometime in 1962, almost one year before Lee Harvey Oswald arrived in New Orleans in April, 1963. Such data was furnished to the Warren Commission.

Furthermore, this Bureau did not misrepresent Banister's address to anyone. Banister's office address was 531 Lafayette Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. It so happened that this was a corner building and there were entrances to the building on Lafayette Street and on Camp Street. The latter entrance carried the address of 544 Camp Street. This was the address used by the anti-Castro Cuban group that occupied space in this building in 1961-62. We found no indication Mr. Banister ever knew Lee Harvey Oswald and consequently there was no reason for us to furnish the Warren Commission with background data regarding Banister. We did interview Banister November 25, 1963, concerning the anti-Castro Cuban group that occupied space in this building during 1961-62. Results of our interview with Banister were furnished to the Warren Commission.

Weisberg also alleged that an unnamed witness tried to tell a Warren Commission counsel that the FBI was involved in anti-Castro Cuban groups in New Orleans but that this witness was then threatened by the FBI. It is not known to whom Weisberg is referring as this unnamed witness. The allegation is absolutely false. This Bureau threatened no witness during the course of our investigation of the assassination.

Weisberg further alleged that the FBI doctored a picture depicting the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building where Oswald was allegedly standing at the time of the assassination. Weisberg claimed the FBI eliminated more than 90 percent of the picture and that "J. Edgar Hoover knew this suppressed picture showed the Presidential motorcade directly in front

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The Attorney General

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of the Texas School Book Depository building." It is not known to what picture Rothberg is referring. The FBI doctored no film." We conducted exhaustive investigation in an effort to find anyone who possessed film depicting the Texas School Book Depository building sixth floor window where Oswald was stationed when the Presidential motorcade passed in front of the building. We were unsuccessful in our efforts to find such photograph and it appears that no one possesses such a photograph. We did, of course, locate and interview individuals who did see Lee Harvey Oswald and/or the assassination rifle in the window in question at the time the Presidential motorcade passed this building."

The above is being furnished for your information in this matter.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General
1 - Mr. Carl Eardley
Acting Assistant Attorney General
1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
1 - Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General

NOTE:

Data set forth herein was previously summarized in memorandum Mr. W. A. Branigan to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 11/16/67. The Director instructed that this information should be furnished to the Attorney General.

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